



Human Rights Commission Special Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Time: 5:30PM

Location: 27 Maple Street, HHS Conference Room, 2nd Floor

Conducted by Hybrid (Remote and In-Person)

This will be a hybrid meeting. Individuals may choose one of the following options to participate in person or virtually:

1. Attend in person in the 2nd Floor HHS Conference Room at the Community Center (Senior Center), 20 Academy Street/27 Maple Street. Registration not required for in-person attendance.

2. ***Notice to the Public on meeting privacy*** To prevent abuse of video conferencing technology (i.e., Zoom Bombing), all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their names may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the dial-in telephone information provided.

Present: Co-Chairs Drake Pusey and Griffin Jones; Commissioners Christine Carney, Rajeev Soneja, Laurie Key, Sharon Grossman, Kristen Bauer, Scott Jones, Gary Horowitz

Absent: Crystal Beauchemin, Kevin Bryant

Staff: Jillian Harvey (DEI), Colleen Leger (HHS), Captain Flynn (APD)

In Person Guests: Anju Joglekar, Chadi Salamoun, Sarah McKinnon, Mary Lynn Cramer, William Stein, Miriam Stein, Noble Larson, Sophie Spink, David Fleig, Laura Handler, Elizabeth Dray, Mona Mandal

On Zoom Guests: Judith Pfeffer, Ed Blundell, Yael Mandelblat, Nadja Rozovsky, Nicole Eaton, Gabriella Eisner, Beth Melofchik, Mark Rosenthal, Susan Barney, Ken Barney, Simon Proekt, Hina Jolin, Marc d'Anjou

Minutes

1. Roll Call, Remote Meeting Notice and Land Acknowledgment
2. Discuss and vote on whether or not to endorse 2024 Special Town Meeting Warrant Article 5: Resolution for a Ceasefire Proclamation.
 - a. [Full text of draft proclamation](#)

- b. [AHRC April 2024 Listening Sessions Report](#)
 - c. Motion and Discussion
 - G. Jones- offers gratitude to all commissioners, for last few weeks, listening session report working group and the engagement and thought that has gone into the crafting of the proclamation before them
 - Key Moves to endorse Article 5 of Special Town Meeting Warrant and bring decision to Select Board, Soneja Seconds. Motion on the floor and discussion
 - Grossman- feels the resolution strives for balance and very appreciative of that, but this moment calls for balance in politics and humanity and different lenses need to be included; quote AHRC bylaws and saw during listening session there is divide on this topic, heard and read that there is a lot of hurt, discord, promotes hate against the other and feels like the proclamation is outside of this commissions purview- in good conscience cannot support this article, but at the same time also outraged and distraught at the killings happening
 - Bauer- gratitude for those who came to sessions and spoke, and shared it is hard to do, also thanks authors of proclamation; would not support the commission putting out a statement or proclamation on this. Feels this is a unique situation in the world, US has leverage and can have an impact. Supports it going to Select Board and Town Meeting Members who are our elected representatives, not that it is for the commission to write; from the listening sessions - no matter happens, people will be hurt, and feel unsafe, and want to see the commission hold an event around anti-Semitism; feel it is appropriate to endorse and commit to doing the work
 - Pusey- two most important things observed in the listening sessions was 1. the binary mind set and zero sum- win and loss view- does not feel this is a true dynamic, feels this article does a good job of speaking to different views; 2. guilt by association is the big injustice that is happening locally, that no matter what you do or do not do you are picking a side- and that perception of sides needs to be broken down
 - Soneja- believes that politics and humanity do not need to be separated, all options on the table including politics in terms of addressing human rights; feels resolution addresses need for ceasefire and the views of people who want the harm to stop
 - Pusey- any other comments, motion on the table is to endorse Article 5 and bring to Select Board
 - Roll call vote: Bauer, Carney, Horowitz, G. Jones, S. Jones, Key, Pusey, Soneja yes, Grossman no - motion passes with 8 yes, 1 no.
3. Adjournment
- a. Horowitz motioned to adjourn, Bauer seconded, all in favor. Meeting ended at 5:49pm.

Next meeting: (Moved to Thursday to accommodate Town Meeting) Thursday, May 16, 2024, 8:00 PM

Anyone needing accessibility information or assistance to attend this meeting should contact Tim Ross at tross@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.